

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 28, 2001, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the following remarks.

01/22/2002 MGEBREM1 00000168 09313225

01 FC:116

400.00 OP

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 28, 2001, there was a rejection. All claims were rejected as being anticipated by Eng (U.S. Patent No. 6,145,117) under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). In this response, no claims have been amended and thus claims 1-73 remain pending in this application.

Attached is the declaration of prior invention in the United States to overcome the cited patent under 37 C.F.R. §1.131. Based on the declaration, Applicant respectfully submits the present invention was made before the cited reference and the rejections have been overcome. All claims should be placed in condition of allowance.